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Science Highlight: New Insight into Penicillin-Binding Proteins

Contact: Judith A. Kelly (Judith.Kelly@uconn.edu)

β -lactam antibiotics are the most commonly used line of defense against bacterial infections, but the efficacy of antibiotics is threatened by the constant emergence of resistant bacteria. Scientists from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, and Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, have obtained the first crystallographic structures of complexes involving a peptide substrate and a penicillin-binding protein, which is the target of β -lactams. This research provides structural and mechanistic information to aid drug design efforts aimed at fighting β -lactam-resistant infections. For more on this work, see:

<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/newsroom/science/2003/03-Kelly.htm>

Nominations for SpIG reps open until March 21, 2003

Contact: Leemor Joshua-Tor (leemor@cshl.org)

The Users Executive Committee (UEC) is now accepting nominations for Special Interest Group (SPIG) representatives for the 2003-2004 year (term starts at the NSLS Annual Users Meeting, 5/21/03).

SpIG Representative Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the SpIG representative are: to attend all of the NSLS Town and UEC meetings for the year elected, represent the diverse interests of the SpIG members, suggest workshop topics for the annual NSLS User Meeting, and perform such other tasks as may be requested by the UEC Chairperson.

Submitting a nomination: In order to participate in the nomination and subsequent election of Special Interest Group (SPIG) representatives to the NSLS User Executive Committee, you must be a NSLS user with an active appointment. Prior to submitting a nomination, please verify with the person you are nominating that they are willing to run for election. Nominations are due by March 21, 2003. To submit a nomination, please go to:

<http://www.nslsuec.org/elections/spig-nom.asp>

Nominations are open until April 18, 2003 for UEC Community Service Award

Contact: Leemor Joshua-Tor (leemor@cshl.org)

The Users' Executive Committee (UEC) has instituted a new award to acknowledge an individual from the NSLS user community in recognition of his/her service, innovation, and/or dedication to NSLS users. This is not an award for scientific achievement, but rather for contributions that have improved the quality of science at the NSLS. The award will be presented at the Annual NSLS Users' Meeting on May 20, 2003. Any member of the NSLS user community with an active appointment is eligible for receipt of this award, excluding current UEC/SPIG members. The award winner will receive a \$250 cash award. In addition, a UEC Award plaque will be on display in the NSLS lobby and will be engraved with the name of each year's winner.

Nominations will be accepted through a web-based application form online from February 13 - April 18, 2003. The Award winner will be chosen by the UEC. In order to participate in the nomination process, you must be a NSLS user with an active appointment. To submit a nomination, please complete the form at:

<http://www.nslsuec.org/elections/communityaward-nom.asp>

Dr. Praveen Chaudhari Named Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory

On January 30, 2003, Brookhaven Science Associates announced the selection of Dr. Praveen Chaudhari as the new director of Brookhaven National Laboratory. Dr. Chaudhari, who will begin his new duties on April 1, joins Brookhaven Lab after 36 years of distinguished service at IBM as a scientist and senior manager of research. More details can be found at:

<http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/2003/bnlpr013003.htm>

Brookhaven National Lab and Stony Brook University Open New Environmental Center

With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University have opened a new center for scientists investigating how contaminants affect the environment. Called the Center for Environmental Molecular Science, the new initiative has been established in collaboration with Penn State University and Temple University. The NSLS will be a major research facility available to the Center's scientists. For more information, see:

<http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/2003/bnlpr031303.htm>

Registration is open for the 2003 NSLS Users' Meeting: May 19-21, 2003

Contact: Tony Lanzirotti (lanzirotti@bnl.gov)

This year's meeting will be held May 19-21 at BNL. This spring promises to be an exciting one at the NSLS and it's vitally important to both the NSLS and the User Community that turnout for these meetings be high. We'll have the typical array of high caliber workshops this year and hope to have some very exciting scientific discussions as well for the Main Meeting on Tuesday. Speakers will include Phaeton Avouris from IBM, Jianwei (John) Miao from SSRL, Alain Gibaud from Université du Maine, Ian Robinson from the University of Illinois, and Christoph Rose-Petruck from Brown University, among others.

We realize that it can be economically difficult at times to come to these meetings and we're very sensitive to that. To make this easier we've drastically cut the costs for attending the meeting this year, particularly for students and post-docs. Professionals will be charged \$150 if they sign up for 1 workshop and \$225 for the meeting plus all workshops. We also have the option this year to attend just the main meeting on Tuesday for \$50 (and that includes lunch!), a bargain to be sure. The Banquet will cost \$35. For students and post-docs, \$75 will get them the meeting and unlimited workshops and \$25 if they just want to attend the Main Meeting on Tuesday and \$15 if they want to attend the Banquet. Remember that registration must be submitted and Payment in full must be received no later than April 30 to avoid a late fee.

Lastly, if you are a foreign national and you plan to stay onsite at BNL during the meeting, you MUST register in BNL's guest information system (GIS) NO LATER THAN APRIL 18. This applies to meeting attendees and speakers who are foreign nationals. The link to the GIS will be provided to you after you register for the meeting. Failure to register in the GIS by April 18 will require that you secure OFFSITE housing during the meeting. Unfortunately a sign of the times we live in. For complete details on the meeting, see:

<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/newsroom/news/2003/06-UsersMtg.htm>

Brookhaven's Association for Students & Postdocs Gears Up

Contact: Christine Carter (ccarter@bnl.gov)

Brookhaven's Association for Students and Postdocs (ASAP) is an organization of students and postdocs working at Brookhaven. The main aim is to improve the quality of life of our members at BNL and to act as a voice for the students and postdocs working at the Laboratory. ASAP was recently established as an officially-sponsored Laboratory organization to foster camaraderie among the Lab's young scientists, as well as support professional development. ASAP will do so by organizing and encouraging participation in a variety of scientific and social activities at BNL and on Long Island. In addition, ASAP will advocate the interests of students and post-docs to the Lab's scientific departments and divisions, as well as to Laboratory management.

An important part of ASAP participation is the election of officers. The positions include president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, and voting is done on-line by going to the ASAP website and clicking on "elections". All votes must be cast by March 31, 2003. More information about ASAP can be found at:

<http://www2.bnl.gov/ASAP/>

BNL Summer Student Becomes a Finalist in the Siemen's Westinghouse Science Competition

Contact: Vivian Stojanoff (stojanoff@bnl.gov)

Congratulations to Alec Berntson a summer student in the Physics Department for becoming a Finalist in the Siemen's Westinghouse Science Competition. During the summer of 2002, Alec worked with BNL scientists, Helio Takai (Physics) and Vivian Stojanoff (NSLS), to write computer software that analyzes protein crystallography diffraction patterns (<http://protein.nsls.bnl.gov/crysis/index.html>). More specifically, Alec's software is used to accurately determine if a protein crystal is good for data collection or has gone bad during exposure. As one of eight regional finalists, Alec receives a \$1,000 award. For more on his project, see:

http://intranet.bnl.gov/newsclips/TT_022703.htm

Australian Synchrotron Requests Completion of Brief Questionnaire

Contact: John Bitcon (john.bitcon@chisholm.vic.edu.au)

The Australian Synchrotron is scheduled to commence operations in early 2007. As part of a joint survey by the Chisholm Institute and Monash University, a questionnaire has been prepared to identify the skill needs that will arise following the commissioning of the Australian Synchrotron. Current synchrotron users worldwide are asked to take 5 minutes to complete this brief questionnaire. All participation is greatly appreciated as it will help in the planning and delivery of synchrotron-related education and training for the Australian facility. To complete the online questionnaire, go to:

<http://nslsweb.nsls.bnl.gov/nsls/misc/ASQuestionnaire/>

Job Opportunities at the NSLS

A number of scientific and technical job opportunities are available now at the NSLS. See the NSLS web site for details:

<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/organization/Admin/jobs.htm>

User Obligations and Reminders

Pre-Registration: All users must pre-register for each visit.
<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/users/newusers/>

Foreign Nationals: All foreign nationals must submit Form BNL-473. Those without active appointments must arrive Monday-Friday by 3 p.m. (no weekends/holidays).

<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/users/newusers/>

Training: All users who require training/retraining must arrive Monday-Friday by 3 p.m. (no weekends/holidays).

Publication References: Users (except proprietary) are obligated to submit references for all published work.

<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/newsroom/publications/references/>

End of Run Form: All users are asked to complete the End of Run survey at the end of each experimental run.

www.nsls.bnl.gov/users/procedures/end_of_run/end-of-run.asp

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If you would like to suggest a news item, please send a message to nslsinfo@bnl.gov.

The current and past issues of the NSLS e-News are available on the web at:

<http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/newsroom/publications/enews/>

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